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Guatemala: Prospects for the New Government

National Intelligence Estimate
Annex C

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: MAR 2001

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February 1986

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THIS ESTIMATE IS ISSUED BY THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE.

THE NATIONAL FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE BOARD CONCURS.

The following intelligence organizations participated in the preparation of the Estimate:

The Central Intelligence Agency, the Defense Intelligence Agency, the National Security Agency, and the intelligence organizations of the Departments of State and the Treasury.

Also Participating:

The Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Department of the Army

The Director of Naval Intelligence, Department of the Navy

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GUATEMALA: PROSPECTS FOR THE NEW GOVERNMENT

ANNEX C

Information available as of 30 January 1986 was used in the preparation of this Estimate, which was approved by the National Foreign Intelligence Board on 13 February 1986.

[redacted]

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ANNEX C

FOREIGN SUPPORT TO THE INSURGENTS

Cuba, Nicaragua, and some of the Soviet Bloc countries have provided Guatemalan insurgents with training, money, and perhaps some arms. Over the past few years, however, the success of the Guatemalan Government's counterinsurgency campaign and the failure of the various guerrilla groups to unify appears to have caused foreign support to the rebels to diminish. During 1985 Havana and Managua continued to supply communications support and training assistance, while Moscow reportedly gave financial aid to the PGT/O. We have no evidence to confirm that any significant arms transfers were completed during the year. [redacted]

[redacted]

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On the basis of available reporting, we judge that the bulk of the training given to the Guatemalan extreme left occurs in Cuba, although a limited amount is provided by the Sandinistas. Managua probably plays a greater role in facilitating the travel of training candidates to Havana. For example, in September 1984, [redacted]

[redacted] a captured insurgent claimed he received one month of guerrilla training in Nicaragua and 18 months in Cuba. The insurgent also reported that two 40-man platoons received similar training in Nicaragua in preparation for their infiltration into San Marcos Department, Guatemala, from Mexico. [redacted] in March 1985 that most FAR commanders and troops were trained in Cuba and Nicaragua and that most ORPA commanders and half of their troops also were trained there. Last July, [redacted] that several new guerrilla instructors were infiltrated from Nicaragua into Guatemala using falsified Nicaraguan passports. The new instructors reportedly were Colombian, Nicaraguan, and Chilean, and all traveled as Nicaraguan refugees. [redacted]

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Solid evidence of foreign arms support in recent years is sporadic. [redacted] Bulgaria was planning to send an arms shipment to the PGT/O. The source says that Managua agreed to allow the shipment to pass through Nicaragua and that the Communist Party of El Salvador would help transfer the arms to the Guatemalans. Thus far, we have no indication that the guerrillas have received the Bulgarian shipment. [redacted] Guatemalan insurgents receive arms and other supplies through Mexico, and sometimes Belize. In addition, we believe that land routes through Honduras for weapons from Nicaragua destined for the Salvadorans probably are also used to transport materiel to the Guatemalans. [redacted]

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